



Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church

PASTORAL CARE OF MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND TRAVELERS

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Fourth African National Eucharistic Congress (ANEC)

Theme: *A Response to the Lord's Prayer, "That They May All Be One" (John 17:21)*

Introduction:

Every five years, the Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church/Subcommittee on the Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers (PCMRT) organizes the African National Eucharistic Congress that brings together African Catholics from across our nation:

- To celebrate the living presence of Jesus in the Church
- To uplift and renew their faith
- To reflect on issues relevant to their presence, role, and contribution to the local church
- To experience solidarity and mutual support and to celebrate their cultural and spiritual values
- To encourage their youth and young adults to stand firm in the faith, become more involved in different ministries, and consider vocations to the priesthood and religious life
- The theme of the Fourth African National Eucharistic Congress is: *A Response to the Lord's Prayer, "That They May All Be One"*. We stand together at the foot of the Cross. Our challenge is to find ways to strengthen that unity for which Jesus prayed (John 17.21).
- The ANEC will be held at The Catholic University of America, July 21-23, 2023.

May the prayer of Jesus lead us to be one in mind and heart and to experience that oneness He prayed for us to have.

ANEC Goals:

According to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, CARA, there are currently more than 2 million Africans in the United States today. There are at least 35 dioceses with more than 1,000 African Catholics. However, systematic studies on the pastoral care of African Catholics in the United States show that there are still many dioceses that are not providing pastoral outreach to them.

The purpose of ANEC is to establish a national pastoral response to the growing and significantly underserved African Catholic population and to respond to the call to be missionary disciples. ANEC is the only national initiative of this kind for African Catholics in the United States.

ANEC Target Audience:

ANEC convenes African Catholics in the diaspora (lay, clergy and religious), and those of African descent, as well as those who minister among them currently and those priests, bishops and lay leaders interested in engaging and accompanying this vibrant and growing segment of the Catholic faithful in the United States.

ANEC Focus:

The African National Eucharistic Congress is a rich ground for the New Evangelization—a tremendous opportunity to engage dioceses, parishes, religious congregations, associations, and lay Catholic leaders to address current social and pastoral needs of African Catholics in the United States, such as immigration, traditional African liturgical celebrations, unity in diversity, solidarity, stewardship, evangelization, and to enable the proclamation of the Gospel to those on the peripheries.

Event Flow:

- **Opening Mass: Friday, July 21, 2023 @8:30PM. Celebrant:** Most Reverend Jerome Feudjio, Bishop of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands
- **Keynote Speaker:** Wilton Cardinal Gregory, Archbishop of Washington, on Saturday, July 22, 2023, at 10:00AM
- **Episcopal Encounter with African Young Adults**
- **Workshops** will feature dynamic and well-known Catholic speakers and opportunities for spiritual enrichment.
- **“United in the Eucharist” Procession:** led by Most Reverend Andrew Cozzens, Bishop of Crookston, Minnesota, on Saturday, July 22, 2023, at 3:00PM
- **Unity Mass:** Saturday, July 22, 2023, 4:30PM at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Immaculate Conception. **Presider:** Wilton Cardinal Gregory, Archbishop of Washington
- **Closing Mass:** Sunday, July 23, 2023, at 10:00AM the Catholic University of America. **Celebrant:** Right Reverend Joseph Antony Zziwa, Bishop of the Diocese of Kiyinda-Mityana (Uganda)

It will be a wonderful experience to see many Bishops, Archbishops, and Cardinals during this Eucharistic Congress in solidarity with African Catholics.

Conclusion:

- The 2023 African National Eucharist Congress is a timely opportunity to invite you to an encounter with African Catholics in the diaspora – come and pray with us to foster an interior attitude of deep oneness with Christ, the Church, and her shepherds.
- Dioceses: please consider sending delegates and encouraging participation, so that the diversity of our dioceses could be truly represented at the ANEC.
- Most importantly, we need your support through prayers and sponsorship to help bring as many young adults and community representatives as possible to the Eucharistic Congress to help them experience mutual support, renewal of their faith, and sharing of their spiritual values and culture.

For More Information:

Check our two websites for more details:

USCCB: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/pastoral-care-migrants-refugees-travelers/african-national-eucharistic-congress-anec>

ANEC: www.anec-us.org

Twitter: ANEC_USA; Instagram: [anec.us](https://www.instagram.com/anec.us); Facebook: [ANEC.US](https://www.facebook.com/ANEC.US);

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We hope to see you in Washington, DC, July 2023!

Please help ensure the success of the Fourth African National Eucharistic Congress in the United States through prayers and sponsorships.

